

**Addendum 1 to
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SOURCE: ITU Member States, members of the Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications (RCC) (see Annex 1 to Document WTDC14/23)

TITLE: Proposals regarding the work of the ITU Telecommunication Development sector

1 Introduction

Resolution 71 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference sets out, on the basis of the ITU Constitution, the mission and strategic goal of the Telecommunication Development Sector (ITU-D):

6.3 Mission

The mission of ITU-D shall be to foster international cooperation and solidarity in the delivery of technical assistance and in the creation, development and improvement of telecommunication/information and communication technology (ICT) equipment and networks in developing countries. ITU-D is required to discharge the Union's dual responsibility as a United Nations specialized agency and executing agency for implementing projects under the United Nations development system or other funding arrangements, so as to facilitate and enhance telecommunication/ ICT development by offering, organizing and coordinating technical cooperation and assistance activities.

6.4 Strategic goal

The strategic goal of ITU-D is threefold, and includes:

- to promote the availability of infrastructure and foster an enabling environment for telecommunication/ICT infrastructure development and its use in a safe and secure manner;*
- to provide assistance to developing countries in bridging the digital divide by achieving broader telecommunication/ICT-enabled socio-economic development;*
- to expand the benefits of the information society to the membership in cooperation with public and private stakeholders, and to promote the integration of the use of telecommunications/ICTs into the broader economy and society as drivers of development, innovation, well-being, growth and productivity globally.*

ITU-D is the main implementing agency for the goals set for ITU by the World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS) and is responsible for Action Lines C2 (Information and communication infrastructure) and C6 (Enabling environment), as well as C5 (Building confidence and security in the use of ICTs), for which ITU is sole facilitator. ITU-D is also responsible for other action lines (C1, C3, C4, C6, C7 and C11), as well as for other issues including information society indicators and the "Connect the World" initiative.

The strategic goals of ITU-R and ITU-T include:

- to establish Recommendations intended to assure the necessary performance and quality in operating radiocommunication systems (ITU-R);

Contact: Name/Organization/Entity: Mr N. Mukhitdinov, Director-General, Regional Commonwealth in the field of Communications
Phone number: +7 495 6921236
E-mail: ecrcc@rcc.org.ru

- to develop interoperable, non-discriminatory international standards (ITU-T Recommendations).

One of ITU-D's most important tasks is to assist developing countries in their knowledge and application of the standards (Recommendations) developed in the Radiocommunication and Standardization Sectors.

There is, however, no direct reference to that activity in ITU-D's strategic plan.

The Rapporteur Group for Question 9-3/2 is hard at work on the identification of study topics in the ITU-T and ITU-R study groups that are of particular interest to developing countries.

At the same time, there is still inadequate provision for direct interaction with the management of those study groups, especially where ITU-T is concerned.

Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries, instructed the Secretary-General and the Directors of the three Bureaux to step up actions intended to reduce the standardization gap between developing and developed countries, and to maintain a close coordination mechanism among the three Sectors at the regional level for bridging the digital divide, through activities of the ITU regional offices to that end.

In its Resolution 47 (Rev. Hyderabad, 2010), the World Telecommunication Development Conference resolved to invite Member States and Sector Members to engage in activities to enhance knowledge and effective application of ITU-R and ITU-T Recommendations in developing countries.

WTSA-12 adopted a revised text of Resolution 44 (Rev. Dubai, 2012), resolving, among other things:

- to take the appropriate actions for each new ITU-T Recommendation having implementation aspects, and to consider the need for developing implementation guidelines;
- to provide assistance, if requested, to developing countries to develop guidelines for use by the national entities of the requesting country in order to enhance their participation in ITU-T study groups, with the assistance of the ITU regional offices for bridging the standardization gap,

and instructing the ITU-T study groups:

- 1) to take account of the specific characteristics of the telecommunication environment of the developing countries in the process of establishing standards in the fields of planning, services, systems, operation, tariffs and maintenance, and to provide solutions/options relevant to developing countries wherever possible;
- 2) to take appropriate steps to have studies carried out on questions connected with standardization which are identified by world telecommunication development conferences;
- 3) to continue liaising with study groups of the ITU Telecommunication Development Sector, where appropriate, when developing new or revised ITU-T Recommendations, on the specific needs and requirements of developing countries, in order to broaden the appeal and applicability of the Recommendations in those countries.

Annexed to Resolution 44 is an action plan for the implementation of Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, which to a considerable extent echoes the mandate and goals of the Telecommunication Development Sector.

2 Discussion

It would be appropriate for work on the development within ITU-R and ITU-T of Recommendations intended for regulators, operators and users to be continued within ITU-D, where they could be approved and examples of best practices provided, culminating in the preparation of guidelines, in the form of a recommendation or implementation report, on implementing the Recommendations in question.

Such ITU-D activities could be included as one of the goals of the new strategic plan, completing a cycle from the drafting to the application of ITU Recommendations. The Development Sector would act as a feedback mechanism between standards users, especially in developing countries, and

those developing Recommendations, providing information on issues arising during the course of implementation, including relevance, quality of drafting, need for revision or need for a new standard. The ability to do this constitutes one of the key advantages of ITU as a maker of standards, compared to other standards development organizations.

The new Resolution 44 adopted at WTSA-12 sets out numerous objectives for ITU-T, and above all for TSB, in regard to bridging the standardization gap, pursuant to Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010). At the same time, implementation of these goals is inextricably linked with the work of BDT and ITU-D as a whole. ITU-R has analogous objectives. In the preparatory work for WTDC-14 and PP-14, formulation of the strategic and financial plans calls for close coordination of the interworking between all three Sectors in order to develop coordinated decisions and avoid duplication in a context of budget constraints.

3 Proposals

RCC/23/1

In developing the draft strategic plan for ITU-D for the period 2016-2019, include, as one of the goals, bridging the standardization gap in terms of assisting developing countries in their knowledge and application of standards (Recommendations) developed in ITU-R and ITU-T.

RCC/23/2

Convert the Rapporteur Group for Question 9-3/2 into an intersector coordination group dealing with the implementation of ITU standards (Recommendations) in the interests of the end user, especially in developing countries, with establishment of the group being a matter for coordination between the three advisory groups as part of the implementation of Resolution 123 (Rev. Guadalajara, 2010) of the Plenipotentiary Conference, on bridging the standardization gap between developing and developed countries.

RCC/23/3

Actively call upon the chairmen of the study groups and advisory groups, as well as their vice-chairmen, representing the developing countries, to work within the intersector coordination group.

RCC/23/4

Instruct the Director of BDT to hold consultations with the Directors of TSB and BR, and with the General Secretariat, in order to determine the financial implications of work aimed at bridging the standardization gap, within the context of developing budget line items geared towards the ultimate goal of – in this case – delivering the results of ITU's standardization work to the end user.
